

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Wyatt B. Pratt, #40,778, on 8/10/09.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. **Claim 1** has been **amended** as follows:

CLAIM 1. (Currently Amended) A pipe joint between two metallic pipes which have been internally and[[/or]] externally coated with a material to prevent corrosion, said joint comprising:

a spigot disposed on a first of said two metallic pipes;

a socket disposed on a second of said two metallic pipes having an internal circumferential groove;

an elastomeric sealing ring disposed in said groove;

Art Unit: 3679

a lip disposed along said socket and extending from said groove to an end of said socket, said lip providing a welding location remote from the sealing ring, said end of said socket not being coated with said material to prevent corrosion;

a heat sink member disposed on said spigot, said heat sink member being a metal band with a substantially rectangular cross-section attached to and extending circumferentially around said spigot, said heat sink member configured to enable welding of said socket end without causing a critical rise in temperature of an inside surface of at least one of said metallic pipes; and

a weld joint region disposed along said socket between said lip and said welding location, said weld joint region formed in an area between a portion of said lip, said heat sink member and said spigot, said weld region being remote from the sealing ring wherein said sealing ring prevents fluid from entering the weld joint region; and

a weld connecting the lip to the heat sink member at said welding location.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a pipe joint between two metallic pipes which have been internally and externally coated with a material to prevent corrosion wherein the joint comprises the combination of a spigot disposed on a first of the two metallic pipes; a socket with an internal circumferential groove disposed on a second of the two metallic pipes; an elastomeric sealing ring disposed in the groove; a lip disposed along

Art Unit: 3679

the socket and extending from the groove to an end of the socket, the lip providing a welding location remote from the sealing ring, the end of the socket not being coated with the material to prevent corrosion; a heat sink member disposed on the spigot, the heat sink member being a metal band with a substantially rectangular cross-section attached to and extending circumferentially around the spigot; a weld joint region disposed along the socket between the lip and the welding location, the weld joint region formed in an area between a portion of the lip, the heat sink member and the spigot, the weld region being remote from the sealing ring wherein the sealing ring prevents fluid from entering the weld joint region; and a weld connecting the lip to the heat sink member at the welding location.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fannie Kee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1820. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aaron M Dunwoody/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

/F. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3679
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